

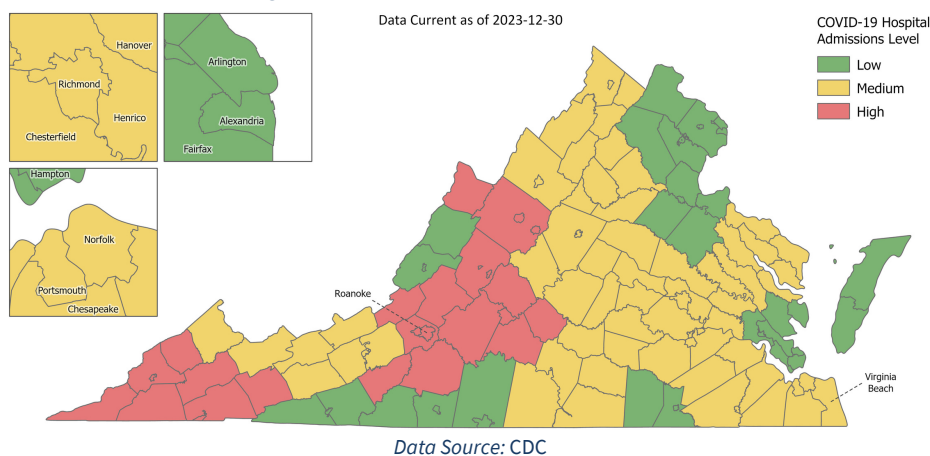
January 5, 2024

Key Takeaways

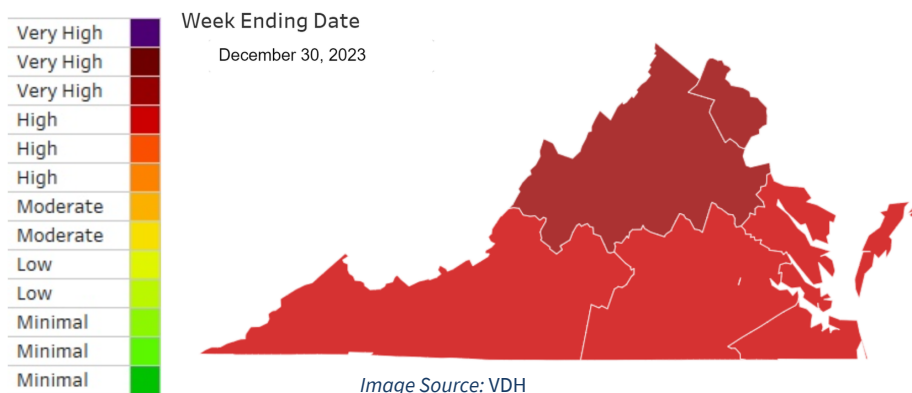
- Snow and ice are expected across much of the state this weekend with over 4" expected in parts of Northwest Virginia, though most impacted areas will see less than 1" of accumulation. Icing may impact power lines and transportation.
- Another storm system is expected Tuesday, with the potential for heavy rains. Precipitation from both systems may cause river flooding later in the week.
- COVID-19 and flu activity continues to increase. Hospital admissions have also increased for both viruses.
- Norovirus rates continue to increase in Census Region 1 (including Virginia). Outbreaks are also reported across in Utah and the UK.
- Virginia had 6,761 persons experiencing homelessness in January 2023, according to a point-in-time survey. Nationally, homelessness increased by 12% year-over-year.

Key Figures

Virginia COVID-19 Hospital Admissions Level



Virginia Influenza Intensity Level



COVID-19

Low

Characterization of statewide COVID-19 hospital admissions as of December 30.

Moderate

Characterization of statewide COVID-19 hospital occupancy as of December 30.

11% / 44%

Population in localities with "High" / "Medium" COVID-19 hospital admissions levels as of December 30.

Influenza

Very High

Statewide influenza activity levels in Virginia, as of Dec 30.

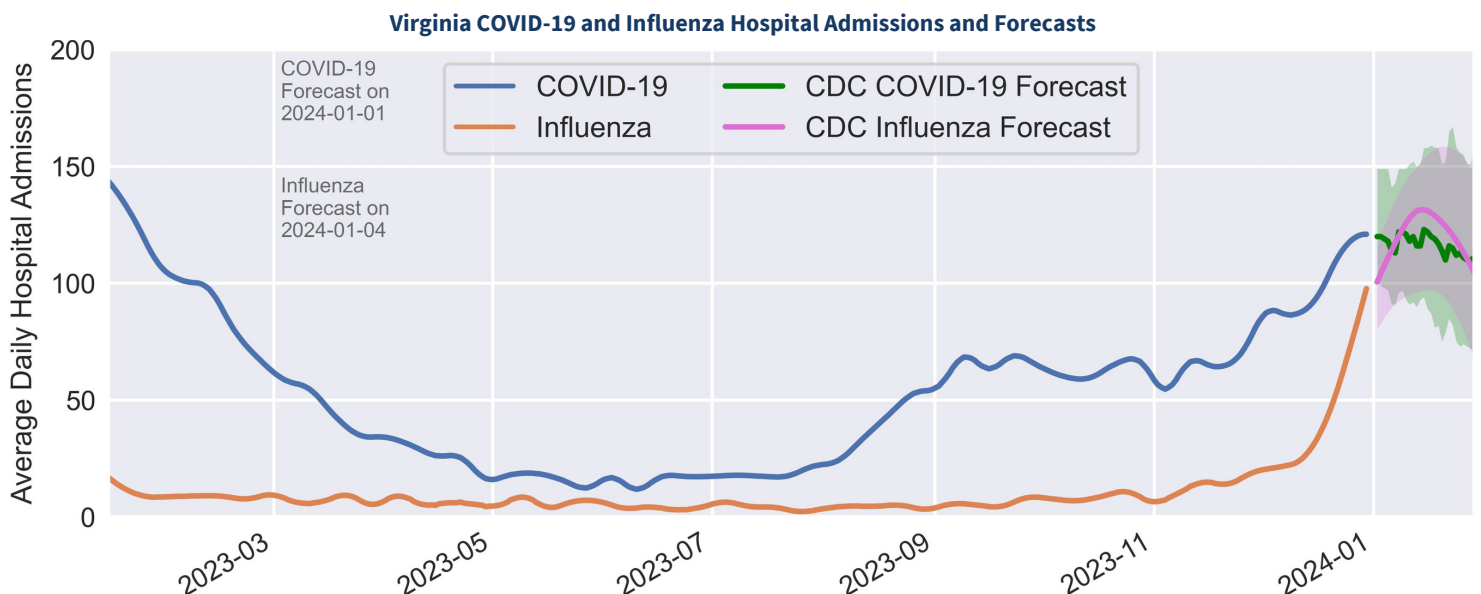
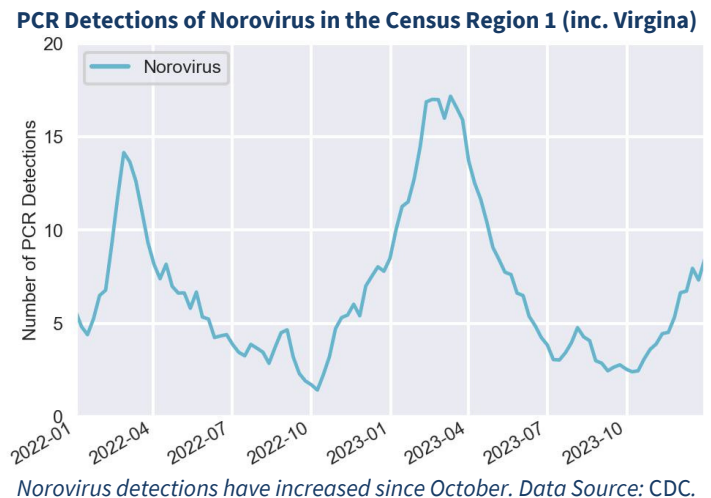
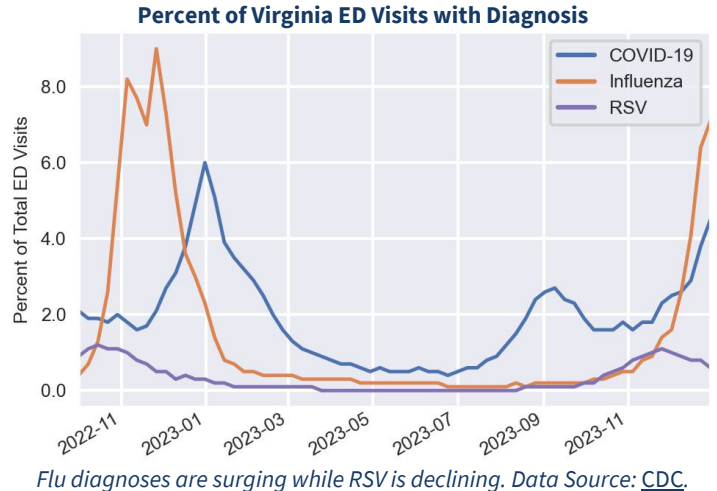
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Virginia regions with Very High or High influenza intensity levels, as of December 30.

Spotlight: Winter Weather

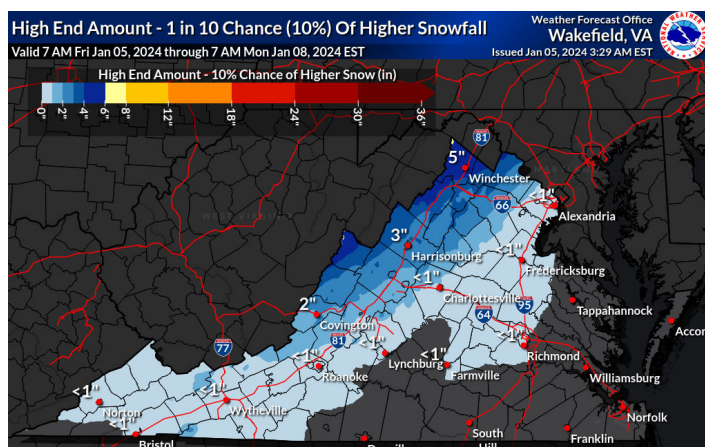
Seasonal Illness

- **Indicators suggest further increase of COVID-19.** COVID-19 diagnoses at EDs increased by another 21% last week and are now at the highest levels seen since January 2023. Wastewater data corroborates this trend, as viral activity levels tripled in a fortnight.
- **Influenza increase continues in Virginia.** The statewide flu intensity level remains “Very High”. ED diagnoses of flu have increased to levels not seen since December 2022.
- **Respiratory illness may increase after holiday season.** The combination of holiday travel, family gatherings, and cold weather may drive further increases of respiratory illness in the coming weeks. The JN.1 variant of COVID-19, which recently became the dominant variant in the United States, could also contribute to case increases. Though RSV activity has decreased in recent weeks, it is still causing illness in the area.
- **COVID-19 and flu hospital admissions increase.** Hospital admissions caused by flu are up almost 200% since December 16, 2023. CDC forecasts suggest continued increase of flu-related hospitalizations, and a plateau for COVID-19.
- **Norovirus continues to increase in the region.** The virus has also caused outbreaks in the UK and Utah. Norovirus in the region peaked around late-February or early-March in both 2022 and 2023.



Spotlight

- **Winter weather is expected across the state this weekend.** Snow and/or ice are expected as far east as Fredericksburg, Richmond, and South Hill. However, accumulations above 1" are not expected outside of Northwest Virginia and portions of Southwest VA.

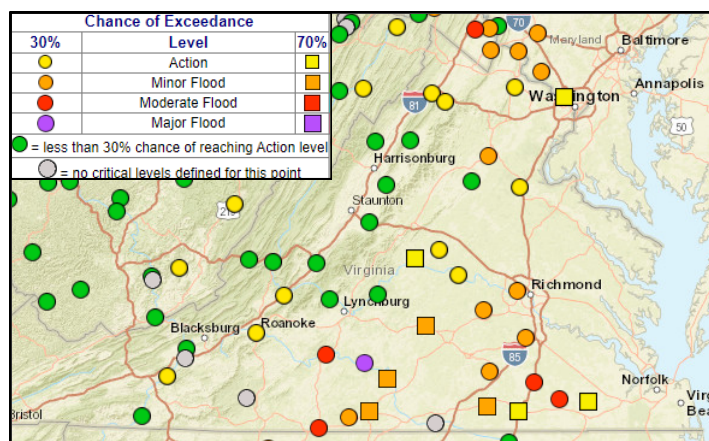


In a worst case scenario (10% chance), Northwest Virginia could see snow accumulations up to 5 inches. However, accumulation is expected to remain below 1" in most of the state in this scenario.

Image Source: [National Weather Service](#).

Winter Weather

- **Another storm system is expected on Tuesday.** This system could bring heavy rain. Combined with precipitation from the weekend storm, there is a potential for elevated river levels later this week, particularly in Southside and south of Richmond.

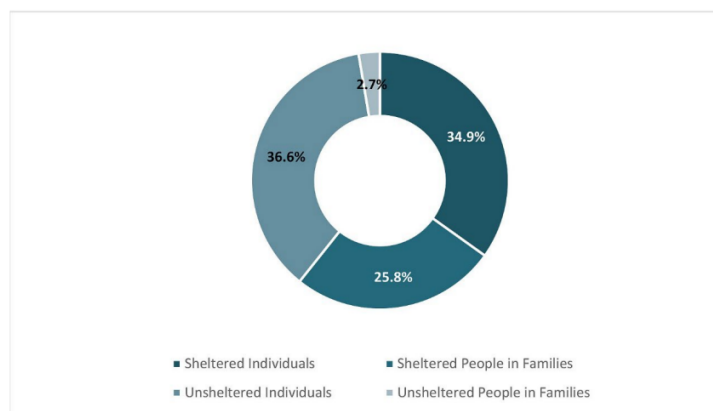


Ensemble forecasts show a 30% chance of moderate flooding in some rivers, and a 70% chance of minor flooding. One spot on the Staunton river, near Brookneal, on the border of Halifax, Charlotte, and Campbell counties, shows a 30% chance for major flooding.

Image Source: [National Weather Service](#).

Other News

Exhibit 1-2: Experiences of Homelessness by Household Type and Sheltered Status, 2023



The majority of households experiencing homelessness in the US are individuals, with similar distributions of homeless individuals living in sheltered and unsheltered conditions. However, more than a quarter are families, most in sheltered conditions. Image Source: [U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development](#).

- **A shooting occurred at an Iowa high school** upon resuming classes after winter break. Two students died, including the gunman, and four students and an administrator were injured.

- **Whooping cough (Pertussis) outbreaks reported in Pennsylvania and New York.** Cases are being identified primarily among school-age children and their families. The increase in cases has been especially drastic for some areas, such as Suffolk County, where 108 cases have been reported this year, compared to just four last year.
- **Prevalence of homelessness increases by 12% since 2022.** A recent report indicates that a point-in-time count from January 2023 estimated 653,104 or about 20 in 10,000 individuals in the U.S. were experiencing homelessness. There are an estimated 6,761 homeless individuals in Virginia, equating to less than 10 per 10,000 people.
- **Officials in several states received bomb threats for two consecutive days this week**, prompting evacuations of state offices and buildings around the country. Ultimately, no explosives were located and the threats were determined to be a hoax. No threats were made to the Virginia State Capitol, but Capitol police swept the premises as a precaution.